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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

FERGUSON, MICHAEL P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3679

DATE MAILED: 05/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/808,646

Applicant(s)

SWAHN ET AL.

Examiner

Michael P. Ferguson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 March 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 03/25/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the hard stop claimed in claim 8, and the instrument panel structure claimed in claim 9 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

In the specification, page 3 (lines 13-15) recite "These and other objects... according to claim 1... dependent claims.". Lines 13-15 should be deleted.

Appropriate correction is required.

4. The specification fails to include a reference to and brief description of the following drawings as set forth in 37 CFR 1.74:

Figures 4 and 5.

See MPEP § 608.01(f). Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

5. Claims 6, 7 and 9 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 6 (line 3) recites "the outer sidewall". It should recite --the outer sidewall of each said threaded tube--.

Claim 7 (line 1) recites "of claim 1". It should recite --of claim 6--.

Claim 9 (line 5) recites "the structure members". It should recite --structure members--.

Claim 9 (line 8) recites "said body structure member to the structure member". It should recite --a body structure member to a structure member--.

For the purpose of examining the application, it is assumed that appropriate correction has been made.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

7. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Claim 8 (line 2) recites "said threaded bolt is arranged to slide... when said threaded tube having reached a hard stop". The specification does not describe how to or what enables the threaded tube to "reach" a hard stop, nor which elements define a

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"hard stop"; thus the specification does not enable one to make such an embodiment of the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ng (US 5,906,450).

As to claim 1, Ng discloses a coupling arrangement for enabling fixing of a structure member and a body structure member, the coupling arrangement comprising:

two threaded tubes **58,67** provided one in either end portion of a passage through a housing **54**, the housing being fixed attachable (via connection to threaded tubes **58,67**, via rings **66,71**) in relation to the structure members and having a threaded passage, wherein a threaded bolt **73** is arranged through the passage and the threaded bolt is adapted to connect the body structure member to the structure member in a coupling position, from which coupling position the threaded bolt, via inserts (respective bores within threaded tubes **58,67**), enables adjusting operations of the threaded tubes in opposite directions along the threaded bolt, so that the threaded tubes are adjustable to a respective fixed position by turning the threaded bolt (Figure 8).

As to claim 2, Ng discloses a coupling arrangement wherein one of the threaded tubes **58,67** is arranged left-hand threaded in a first associated end portion of the

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housing **54** and another of the threaded tubes is arranged right-hand threaded in a second associated end portion of the housing (Figure 8).

As to claim 3, Ng discloses a coupling arrangement wherein the fixing of the coupling arrangement is enabled by operation of the threaded bolt **73** which is accessible from the outside of the body structure member relative to the coupling arrangement (Figure 8).

As to claim 4, Ng discloses a coupling arrangement wherein one of the threaded tubes **58,67** is a body tensioning tube forming a supporting structure with the housing **54** for the interior of the body structure in a fixed position (via rings **66,71**; Figure 8).

As to claim 5, Ng discloses a coupling arrangement wherein one of the threaded tubes **58,67** is a tolerance absorbing tube capable of forming a supporting structure between the coupled structure members (Figure 8).

As to claim 6, Ng discloses a coupling arrangement wherein the threaded tubes **58,67** are partially threaded on portions of the outer sidewall and the housing **54** is threaded complementary on portions of its inner sidewall (Figure 8).

As to claim 7, Ng discloses a coupling arrangement wherein any one of the threaded tubes **58,67** and threaded housing **54** is provided with flanges (rings **66,71**) for support against a structure member (Figure 8).

10. Claims 1, 3-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ralko et al. (US 6,431,602).

As to claim 1, Ralko et al. disclose a coupling arrangement for enabling fixing of a structure member and a body structure member, the coupling arrangement comprising:

two threaded tubes **20,22** provided one in either end portion (both in the same end portion) of a passage through a housing **60**, the housing being fixed attachable in relation to the structure members and having a threaded passage, wherein a threaded bolt **24** is arranged through the passage and the threaded bolt is adapted to connect the body structure member to the structure member in a coupling position, from which coupling position the threaded bolt, via inserts (pin portions **170,172**), enables adjusting operations of the threaded tubes in opposite directions along the threaded bolt, so that the threaded tubes are adjustable to a respective fixed position by turning the threaded bolt (Figures 1-3A and 5).

As to claim 3, Ralko et al. disclose a coupling arrangement wherein the fixing of the coupling arrangement is enabled by operation of one threaded bolt **24** which is accessible from the outside of the body structure member relative to the coupling arrangement (Figure 5).

As to claim 4, Ralko et al. disclose a coupling arrangement wherein one of the threaded tubes **20,22** is a body tensioning tube forming a supporting structure with the housing **60** for the interior of the body structure in a fixed position (Figure 5).

As to claim 5, Ralko et al. disclose a coupling arrangement wherein one of the threaded tubes **20,22** is a tolerance absorbing tube capable of forming a supporting structure between the coupled structure members (Figure 5).

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As to claim 6, Ralko et al. disclose a coupling arrangement wherein the threaded tubes **20,22** are partially threaded on portions of the outer sidewall and the housing **60** is threaded complementary on portions of its inner sidewall (Figure 5).

As to claim 7, Ralko et al. disclose a coupling arrangement wherein any one of the threaded tubes **20,22** and threaded housing **60** is provided with flanges **32,42** for support against a structure member (Figure 5).

As to claim 9, Ralko et al. disclose a vehicle body having a coupling arrangement wherein the coupling arrangement includes two threaded tubes **20,22** provided one in either end portion (both in the same end portion) of a passage through a housing **60**, the housing being fixed attachable in relation to the structure members and having a threaded passage, wherein a threaded bolt **24** is arranged through the passage and the threaded bolt is adapted to connect the body structure member to the structure member in a coupling position, from which coupling position the threaded bolt, via inserts (pin portions **170,172**), enables adjusting operations of the threaded tubes in opposite directions along the threaded bolt, so that the threaded tubes are adjustable to a respective fixed position by turning the threaded bolt, the vehicle body comprising:

the coupling arrangement interconnecting one instrument panel structure **14** (engine mount **14** mounting an engine which inherently has an instrument panel attached to it; thus defining an instrument panel structure) and one A-pillar section **16** (Figures 1-3A and 5).

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Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure. The following patent shows the state of the art with respect to coupling arrangements:

Petercsak (US 5,702,196) is cited for pertaining to arrangements comprising two threaded tubes and a threaded bolt.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael P. Ferguson whose telephone number is (571)272-7081. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571)272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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